(c) According to Punjab & Sind Bank they are committed to provide prompt and effective service to their customers and on this occasion the bank reiterated the commitment.

(d) and (e) Although no commitments have been made by the bank to provide more loans to the unemployed educated youth, the bank is committed to provide such loans in compliance with the guidelines/directives issued by the Reserve Bank of India from time to time.

(f) and (g) No commitments have been made by the bank in this regard. However, the bank has been seeking the approval of Reserve Bank of India for conversion of extension counters into fullfledged branches depending upon viability and the demand of the local residents. This is an ongoing process.

SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister has stated in parts (d) and (e) of his reply that the bank is committed to providing such loans to the unemployed educated youth. Sir, my first supplementary is with regard to the amount of loan, and the first part of my supplementary is: What is the total amount of loan which has been sanctioned to the unemployed educated youth during the last three years and the total number of youths benefited by such loans? The second part of my first supplementary is whether more weightage in sanctioning loans is being given to Sikh youths. Will the Minister please clarify it?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, under the PMRY scheme against the target of 4,250 cases during the year 1995-96 the Punjab & Sind Bank sanctioned 4,260 cases. They have exceeded the target. The Bank still has 2,328 applications under the PMRY scheme which are under consideration of the Bank, and have been included in the target for the current financial year 1996-97. Sir, I do not have the figures of the amount granted against this scheme, but broadly, Sir, under the priority sector advances, the Bank has advanced Rs. 835 crores in 1993-94, Rs. 1,053 crores in 1994-95 and Rs. 1,289 crores in 1995-96.

SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND: Sir, my second supplementary is with regard to the reservation rules relating to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state whether the reservation rules are being applied in filling up vacancies through promotion? Sir, the reservations rules apply both to the direct channel and the promotion channel, but my supplementary is restricted to the promotional channel. I want to know whether the reservation rules are being strictly applied to the promotional channel, and that too in the higher grades, i.e. Gr. I, Gr. II, Gr. III and Gr. IV Officers' categories, and if the answer is in the affirmative, then what the total number of officers who have been promoted during the last three years is.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I will be very happy to respond to it, but I need a separate notice to reply to this supplementary. This supplementary does not relate this question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This supplementary does not arise out of this question.

Strategy involving accelerating growth and strengthening anti-poverty programmes

*85. SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the twin strategy of accelerating growth, investment and modernisation of economy and strengthening anti-poverty programmes as proposed in the budget of 1995-96 were successful;

(b) if so, to what extent; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Yes,

Sir. Latest official estimates by the Central Statistical Organization show that economic growth accelerated to 7 per cent in 1995-96.

Anti-poverty programmes were strenthened through higher budget allocations as follows:

(Rs. crore)

Scheme	1994-95 (BE)	1995-96 (BE)	% Increase
i) Jawahar Rozgar Yojana	3855	3862	0.2
ii) Employment Assurance Scheme	1200	1570	30.8
iii) Rural Water Supply and Sanitation	950	1170	23.2
iv) Nehru Rozgar Yojana	70	71	1.4

*The question was actually asked on the floor of the house by Shri Surinder Kumar Singla

(c) Does not arise.

The queustion was actually asked on the floor of the house by Shri Surinder Kumar Singla.

SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA: Sir, I am extremely happy that the answer given by the hon. Minister reflects the successful story of the new economic reforms initiated by the former Congress Government in the country. But before I put my supplementaries I need some information from the hon. Finance Minister as regards the reports appearing in the newspapers that certain components of the United Front Government wanted to play down the figures of CSO.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You put your supplementary. No general question.

SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA: This is a piece of information which I seek.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please put your question.

SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA: Well, my first question is whether there was an attempt on the part of certain Members of the ruling group to play down the CSO figures of growth rate and also an attempt to influence the actual figures which are really reflected.... *(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister is replying on behalf of the whole Government. Why do you ask about certain Members? You put your supplementary, please.

SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA: All right, was the Minister of Finance pressurised to change the figures of CSO or the figures of growth rate in the forthcoming Economic Survey or not?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: No, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Second supplementary.

SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA: It is not the second supplementary, Sir. My first supplementary is.... *(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Second supplementary. You can count well.

SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA: Okay, As was rightly pointed out, the increase in investment is crucial for the entire economic growth. Now part (a) of my question is: What is the proportion of domestic investment and foreign capital investment which really provided this higher growth rate? Part (b) of my question is whehter the projected foreign investment of ten billion dollars a year is a target possible to be achieved or not. Part (c) of my question is that if there is no possibility of the targeted

investment coming from foreign sources, what are the policies that you are choosing to bring more foreign investment?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Last year foreign direct investment was approximately two billion dollars. That represents a very small proportion of the total investment in this country. That represents approximately 3% to 4%. At the margin we will always require foreign investment because it brings with it technology; it brings with it opportunities to explore and send our products to new markets. The bulk of the investible funds would have to be raised within India and that how is it has been raised in the past and it will be raised in the future. It is true that the Common Minimum Programme stipulates that India needs and can absorb ten billion dollars a year as foreign investment. We are not going to achieve ten billion dollars overnight, nor are we going from two billion dollars to ten billion dollars in one year. That is the goal. I am confident that if we continue to pursue sound policies and to keep the climate here attractive and hospitable to crucual foreign investments, particularly in infrastructural sectors, we will be able to step up investment from two billion dollars to ten billion dollars in a period of three to four years. I think the Government has in place some mechanisms to attract foreign investment. For example, the FIPB was revamped only a few days ago. Other steps that the Government takes will be presented to parliament from time to time.

DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Sir, part (a) of the original Question consisted of four parts, i.e. accelerating growth, accelerating investment, accelerating modernisation and strengthening anti-poverty programmes. In his written reply the hon. Minister has answered two parts, i.e. accelerating the growth and strengthening the anti-poverty programmes. Then in reply to Mr. Singla's supplementary he told us about investment. But the modernisation part is yet to be answered. My supplementary is: What are the concrete achievements in the areas of strategy of accelerating modernisation?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I think my hon. friend, Dr. Jichkar has not read part (a) of the Question. The Question did not ask for information about the strategies of modernisationing the economy. The question was whether the strategy of modernisation of economy was successful. I said, "Yes". He should be happy that I have said, "Yes, the strategy of accelerating growth, investment and modernisation and strengthening anti-poverty programmes has been successful". Now if he wishes to know what the modernisation of economy means, in my view modernisation of economy means making it more efficient, more productive, more competitive and infusion of modern technology. I believe that the previous Government followed such a policy. I believe that the present Government will also follow a policy of modernising the economy by injecting efficiency, productivity and competitiveness into the economy. We will also help bring in foreign technology in crucial areas. We will also promote indigenous R&D in order to modernise our industry. We have in our common Minimum Programme emphasised the need to bring in the latest technology to all our sectors. We have given two examples. Number one is biotechnology in agriculture. We have also given the example of cold storage in agriculture processing. All these are steps to modernise the economy. The economy is modern in today's world terms only if it is efficient, competitive and has absorbed the latest in technology.

DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Sir, I beg to differ from the Minister. The question was about modernisation and extent of modernisation. But still I am happy that the Minister has answered the question.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, in part (b) of the Question the hon. Member has asked about

the success of the anti-poverty programmes and other factors and to what extent they were successful. The hon. Minister has replied to it by quoting the budget allocations as such. Without elaborating further, may I draw the attention of the hon. Finance Minister and seek his response to the latest World Development Report, 1996 which he must have come across? On page 208 it is written that the growth of economy during 1980—90 was 5.8 per cent and during 1990—1994 it was 3.8 per cent. So far as agriculture is concerned, during 1980—1990, it was 3.1 per cent and during 1990—1994 it was 2.9 per cent. As for industry, during 1980—1990, it was 7.1 per cent and during 1990—1994 it was 3.2 per cent. Of course, the gross domestic investment during 1980—1990 was 6.5 per cent and during 1990—1994 it was 1.2 per cent. I think you rely on such documents. Actually, Dr. Manmohan Singh relied on these. So you must also rely on these documents. I am quoting from the World Development Report, 1996. There is an embargo here which says, "not for publication or broadcast until 4 p.m., Thursday, June 27, 1996". I am quoting this on 16th of July. So, the embargo is not applicable now. May I know from the hon. Minister whether the figures which depict not a very rosy picture about 1994 have undergone a sea change in 1995-96 or is it based on Budget allocations which say that all these anti-poverty programmes have been very successful? I do not want to quote all the figures. The figures regarding education, health, literacy, sanitation and all that show that India lags behind Pakistan. So far as ranking is concerned, Pakistan is 133 and India is 134. I seek your assistance. What is your response?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I have great respect for the hon. Member, Shri Satish Agarwal. One can always draw conclusions from a set of figures. I have no reason to quarrel with his figures. We can take these figures, we can talk over it and we can debate that and we can see what conclusions can be drawn. The point is whether the anti-poverty programme was successful and, if so, to what extent. I could have given a long answer. I did give figures of major anti-poverty programmes. But that shows the thrust of the policy pursued by the previous Government, namely, to allocate more funds for the anti-poverty programmes. What are the results? We have our own statistical organisation and I am quite sure that my friend Mr. Agarwal will set store by the figures produced by our own organisations and not doubt them just because they are Indian.....*(Interruptions)*....

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: Your own Ministers are expressing doubts. They have said that the percentage of population below the poverty-line is 40.....*(Interruptions)*....

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: The estimates in 1987-88 were based on the National Sample Survey in Consumer Expenditure of the 43rd round. The estimates for 1993-94 were based on subsample (1) of the house hold consumer expenditure collected in the survey of NSS - 50th round. These estimates show that in the rural areas, the percentage below the poverty-line was 28.37 in 1987-88 and it declined to 21.68 in 1993-94. In the urban areas, it was 16.82 in 1993-94. In the urban areas, it was 16.82 in 1987-88 and it declined to 11.55 in 1993-94....*(Interruptions)*....

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: I am not debating it. It was your own Ministry, your own Government which had admitted in this House just yesterday or the last week that the percentage of people living below the poverty-line was 40.

The Minister quoted certain figures here in this House. Whom do we believe, you or your colleagues in the Government? Why are you misleading the whole nation? One Minister says one thing and another Minister says another thing. This House should not be misled. Mr. Chairman, Sir, you should resolve this issue. We are not interested in the mere numbers of people who are living below the poverty-line. The whole House wants to know: which is official and which is unofficial?..... *(Interruptions)*....

MR. CHAIRMAN: You must believe the official statistics....*(Interruptions)* ...Allow the Minister to complete...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI MD. SALIM: You must believe the Minister...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: Three months back, Mr. Salim, you were fighting in this House saying that the number of people living below the poverty-line had gone up...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let the Minister answer...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI MD. SALIM: This is an appraisal made by the Planning Commission...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: The Planning Commission says something, the statistical organisations say something ...*(Interruptions)*...Whom do we believe?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: There are other figures. You can debate these figures and draw conclusions.

Let us look at the basic indicator of human development. The life expectancy was 58.7 per cent in 1990. In 1992, it was 60.8 per cent. As regards the literacy rate, figures are not available for 1990. In 1991, it was 52.2 per cent. The birth rate showed a slight increase in 1989-90. But it again declined from 1991. It is now 28.6 per thousand. The death rate was 9.7—9.8 per thousand in 1991...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: This will not satisfy us...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I am talking about human development...*(Interruptions)* How is it possible to answer these things? It is not a debate...*(Interruptions)* I can only give the figures...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Imposition of Tax on Foreign Telecasting Companies

*83. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Board of Direct Taxes propose to impose tax on foreign telecasting companies associated with Indian satellite television channels;

(b) if so, whether Government have assessed the earnings being made by foreign telecasting companies by advertising Indian products; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and by when Government would finally take a decision in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c): Income of such companies is already subject to income-tax.

Development of Tourism Projects in Karnataka

*86. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what are the projects taken in Karnataka to develop tourism; and

(b) what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) and (b) The projects assisted by the Central Department of Tourism for developing tourism in the Karnataka State during the first four years of the Eighth Plan period include Yatri Niwases, tourist complexes, wayside facilities, tourist reception centres, upgradation of golf courses, etc. In all, 41 projects amounting to Rs. 820.00 lakhs were sanctioned during the period. The year wise details are annexed as a statements I,II,III,IV.